

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/647,768	KELLER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Stacy A. Whitmore	2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to application filed 8/25/2003.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3.  The drawings filed on 8/25/2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 1/05 and 2/04
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-15 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose either singularly or in combination the invention as claimed, including [claims 1-2, 10-11, and 14-15] a method, system, and software product for determining a highest level signal name in a hierarchical design comprising at least determining the net connected to the current net in a hierarchical parent of the instance identified by the indicia, to establish a next current net; and if a condition exists wherein there is no connection from the current net to a hierarchically higher level instance, then establishing the current net as the highest level signal name for the selected net; [claims 3-7] repeating the previous four steps until a retrace endpoint is encountered to establish the current net as the HI-NN for the selected port instance; [claims 8-9] determining, as a next port instance, the port instance on the instance identified by the most recently stored indicia that is an instantiation of the port connected to the current net; determining, as the current net, the net connected to the next port instance; and repeating the retrace operation until a retrace endpoint is encountered wherein: the instance history list is empty; there is no connection from the current net to a hierarchically higher level instance; or there is no net connected to the port instance that is located on the instance within which the current net exists; and establishing the current net as the HI-SN for the selected net; and [claims 12-13], means for performing a retrace operation comprising: determining the net connected to the current net in a hierarchical parent of the instance identified by the indicia, to establish a next current

net; and establishing the current net as the H1 ,SN for the selected net; wherein the retrace operation is performed for each stored indicia in the instance history list until a retrace endpoint is encountered..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stacy A. Whitmore whose telephone number is (571) 272-1685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternate Friday 6:30am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stacy A Whitmore

Application/Control Number: 10/647,768  
Art Unit: 2825

Page 4

Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2825

SAW  
April 13, 2005

A handwritten signature consisting of three stylized, upward-sloping strokes. The first stroke is the longest and has a small loop at its peak. The second stroke is shorter and ends with a small loop. The third stroke is the shortest and ends with a small loop. The entire signature is written in black ink.